

1993. POSTER. Page 365 in Interior Cedar-Hemlock-White Pine Forests: Ecology and Management, Symposium Proceedings, (March 2-4, 1993, Spokane, Washington)

WILDLIFE AND REFORESTATION IN THE INTERIOR FORESTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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There is a diverse flora and fauna in interior forests of the Pacific Northwest. These forests are faced with a broad array of problems: drought, frost, insects, disease, livestock, and poor planting conditions. Wildlife often pose an additional hindrance to successful reforestation. Rodents and birds feed upon seeds; pocket gophers, voles, and hares clip or debark seedlings; deer and elk browse and trample seedlings and debark saplings; porcupines, squirrels, and bears debark or may entirely girdle older trees.

A wide array of protective measure are available to reduce wildlife damage: planting seedlings rather than seedling harvest units, the physical protection of seedlings, use of chemical repellents, providing alternative forage, altered cultural methods, chemical toxicants and kill-trapping, and population reduction through regular or special hunts. Not all of these approaches are equally effective nor equally accepted by the public. It is important that the species causing the damage, the timing, and the extent of the losses be identified. Control methods should be selective and costs effective. Research is needed for effective, economical, nonlethal methods to reduce wildlife damage. Approaches being pursued include cultural methods, barriers, repellents, aversion conditioning including predator odor, burrow modification, resistant seedlings, and immunocontraception.